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Lunch on a Dime

The Good Stuff is in the Back

Venerable Watering Holes and
Naugahyde Lounges

Favorite Recipes of Judges



The official publication of the Riverside County Bar Association

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LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

by Robyn A. Lewis

The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court finished its 2007-2008 session by honoring several very prestigious members of the Riverside legal community.

In May of 2008, Team Timlin, which included Doug Plazak, Chad Firetag, Joseph Galasso III, Dan Katz, Keith Kelly, the Honorable Stephen Larson, J Niswonger, and Brian Percy, gave its presentation in honor of its namesake, the Honorable Robert Timlin.



Hon. Stephen Larson, Hon. Bernard Schwartz,
Hon. Robert Timlin

Judge Timlin is a Senior District Judge for the Central District of California. After receiving his J.D. and LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, Judge Timlin worked as a Special Attorney for the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division. He went on to serve as the City Attorney of Corona and as an Assistant United States Attorney. After being appointed as a Municipal and Superior Court judge for the County of Riverside, Judge Timlin served as an Associate Justice of the Fourth District Court of Appeal. He was appointed to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton, receiving his commission on September 15, 1994.

In addition to the honor of being the namesake of one of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court teams, Judge Timlin was also the recipient of the first annual Judge Elwood Rich Jurist of the Year Award, which he received at the May meeting.

Virginia Blumenthal, local criminal defense attorney and Riverside legend, was honored by being the namesake for Team Blumenthal, which gave its presenta-

tion on “The Patriot Act in the Post-9/11 Era” in June. Team Blumenthal included the Honorable Oswald Parada, Randy Stamen, Robyn Lewis, Stefanie Field, Wendy Seto, Juan Dotson, Connie Younger, and Nick Firetag.

Ms. Blumenthal graduated from California Southern School of Law in 1975, when few women were earning law degrees. She is one of Riverside’s most prominent criminal defense lawyers and has created a highly acclaimed female criminal defense law firm with over 50 years of combined criminal law experience. She has earned a reputation as a brilliant, hard-hitting attorney by handling some of the city’s most high-profile cases, involving murder, child molestation and grand theft. Ms. Blumenthal was named one of the most influential attorneys in the state of California by the Daily Journal.

Also honored by the Inn were two young attorneys, who shared the Louise Biddle Book Award. Kirsten Birkedal and Doug Flahaut received this annual award for their exemplary leadership and for demonstrating the ideals and goals of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court. The award was named after Louise Biddle, the former Executive Director of the RCBA and treasured member of the Riverside legal community, who passed away in 2006.

Steve Harmon was the first recipient of the annual Terry Bridges Attorney of the Year Award. Practicing exclusively in the area of criminal defense for over 30 years, Mr. Harmon is one of the Inland Empire’s most well-known and well-respected attorneys. During the course of his career, he has defended clients accused of crimes ranging from complex felonies to misdemeanors. Mr. Harmon has been called a “zealous and thorough” advocate by the California Supreme Court. (*People v. Hart* (1999) 20 Cal.4th 509, 636.) Mr. Harmon is on the faculty of and teaches regularly at the National Criminal Defense College based in Macon, Georgia, the Institute for Criminal Defense Advocacy in San Diego, California, and



Virginia Blumenthal



Steve Harmon

the Death Penalty Colleges at the University of Santa Clara Law School and the University of Michigan School of Law.

Robyn Lewis, RCBA Secretary and a member of the Bar Publications Committee, is with the Law Offices of Harlan B. Kistler. She is also Co-Chair of Membership for the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.



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